

Appl. No. 09/827,507  
Amdt. Dated July 15, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of 3/25/04

Attorney Docket No. 81855.0008  
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15 and 19 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 22 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 22 can be found on p. 14, lines 4-13 of Applicant's specification. Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16-18, and 20-25 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103:

Claims 1, 2, 5-20, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thiel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,509) in view of Goss (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,901), and further in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,920). This rejection is moot with respect to claims 15 and 19 due to the cancellation of these claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16-18, 20, and 22-25.

Claims 1 and 22, as amended, require that the defect information includes at least one of defect rates and rates without defect, wherein the defect rate information comprises a listing of each inspection station, a number of defects identified at each production station, a number of units inspected, a defect rate at each inspection station, a total number of defects, a failure rate, a category and number of each category of defect detected and an associated failure rate.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claims 1 and 22 obvious because the cited references fail to teach or suggest defect rate information comprising all of the above mentioned features. The Office relies on Thiel for teaching among other things defect information that includes at least one of defect rates and rates without defect. However, the defect rate information of Thiel fails to teach or suggest a listing of each inspection station, a number of

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defects identified at each production station, a number of units inspected, a defect rate at each inspection station, a total number of defects, a failure rate, a category and number of each category of defect detected and an associated failure rate.

The comprehensive listing of the present invention makes it possible to swiftly and accurately identify problems in production and quality assurance by identifying high defect of particular types of defects. (Applicant's specification, at p. 14, lines 17-19). Neither Goss nor Chen can remedy this defect and neither reference is relied on by the Office for such. Instead, the Office relies on Goss for teaching a method for assembly of computer systems in a build-to-order environment comprising: inputting a business function identifier into the memory, wherein the business function identifier identifies the party responsible for resolving at least one defect phenomena; inputting a resolving method for the at least one defect phenomena; wherein the resolving method is selected from a list of prestored resolving methods; wherein the selected resolving method is stored in the memory for later use; replacing a defective component with a new component by implementation of the resolving method; selecting designating stations among said responsible business functions to see messages that are sent from said selected stations; and the Office relies on Chen for teaching a watchdog system for monitoring a semiconductor wafer testing line comprising inputting defect information for components into memory at an inspection station and quality assurance station apart from any of the production stations, wherein each inspection station and quality assurance station is assigned a station identifier, so that the defect information and the unit control identifier are linked to the inspection station/quality assurance station where the defect information is input.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references could not have made amended claims 1 and 22 obvious, because the

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combination of references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Claims 2, 5-14, 16-18, 20 and 23-25 depend from claims 1 and 22, respectively, and therefore, cannot be made obvious for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 22. Withdrawal of these rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Thiel-Goss-Chen as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hopkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,765). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 21 depends from claim 1 and therefore, cannot be rendered obvious over Thiel-Goss-Chen for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Hopkins cannot remedy the defect of Thiel-Goss-Chen and is not relied on by the Office for such. Instead, the Office relies on Hopkins for teaching a computer integrated manufacturing control system comprising fixed bar code scanners each associated with a processing machine for work-in-process tracking.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references could not have rendered claim 21 obvious, because the combination of references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

The art made of record but not relied upon by the Examiner has been considered. However, it is submitted that this art neither describes nor suggests the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6810 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

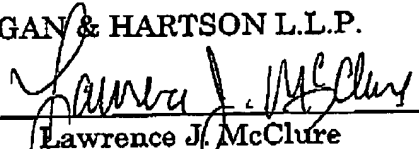
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: July 15, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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